

Tenzin Thokme  
470 Midvale Ave., #1  
Los Angeles, CA 90024

May 12, 1999

0838 '99 MAY 18 A9:48

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: Docket # 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food"

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to urge the FDA to **retain the current labeling law** and the use of the radura symbol on all irradiated foods. This labeling should continue to use the current terminology of "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" and be prominently placed and large enough to be easily read.

Initially the FDA concluded that irradiation was a "material fact" in the processing of food and therefore should be disclosed. This fact remains and so labeling should remain.

Irradiation is a new technology which causes chemical and physical changes to our food that could have dangerous affect in the long run. In addition, irradiated meats may have a higher level of carcinogenic benzene and all irradiated foods contain unique radiolytic products that have never been tested. Since there are no studies of the long term affects of irradiated foods on humans, **consumers have a right to know if this process has been used on their foods.**

I urgently request that the FDA's labeling requirement not be permitted to expire.

Yours truly,

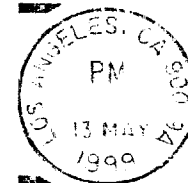
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tenzin Thokme', written over a horizontal line.

Tenzin Thokme

98N-1038

C 2115

Tenzin Thokme  
470 Midvale Ave #1  
L.A. CA 90024



Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food + Drug Adm.  
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm 1061  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

20837/0003

